

among its supporters died almost before it was spoken.²³ Mr. Lloyd George's Council of Action was mostly inactive, and when active, ineffectual. 'We Can Conquer Unemployment' gave place to 'We Can Conquer Germany', and that, surprisingly, to 'We Can Make Peace With Germany', without much evident result. Nor were Sir Stafford Cripps's efforts to promote a United Front any more productive than Mr. Lloyd George's to acquire followers who were not also relatives. He went on and off the Labour Party Executive, and at last was subjected to disciplinary action. At a Labour Party Conference, he attempted to justify his policy of inviting the collaboration of Liberals, Communists, Pacifists, federal-unionists, all progressive forces of whatever character, to defeat the Government, and the methods he had adopted to attract support for it; but his speech was unsympathetically received. Much of it dealt with attacks which had been made on him for being wealthy—a condition he admitted to, but held justifiable in the circumstances. To gain re-admission to the Labour Party, a promise never again to engage in subversive activities and an expression of regret for past misdemeanours, were required of him, and the latter he resolutely refused to furnish. Thus was he left isolated, a one-man United Front, in himself a compendium of progressive views, Stafford Egalite, with a weekly publication, the *Tribune*, in which to publish his views and his photograph, and a lucrative practice at the Bar to provide funds for the same.

What alone truly aroused the interest of Members of Parliament, and brought them hurrying to their places, and filled the Order Paper with questions which, when

answered, gave rise
to many others, were events outside their
precincts, a distant
spectacle. They hung on words spoken elsewhere;
watched,
enthralled, a play in which they had so far been
allotted no parts,

²³ A Conservative Member, Sir Stanley Reed, prefaced some mild criticism of the Government by remarking that 'if he thought that a single word of what he was going to say in the remotest degree showed the slightest lack of Confidence in the Prime Minister, he would cut out his tongue.* This drastic operation proved unnecessary.